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Power Patents

Thomas Prock
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Overview

- Power Inventions – What are they?/some figures
- The character of the Cleantech IP field
- A look through the spyglass
- IP knowledge; a business tool
- Some examples

Power Inventions – what are they?

Inventions relating to alternative energy sources, e.g. wind, solar, tidal, biofuel, geothermal



The Holy Grail (?) – Energy Storage Inventions,
e.g. flywheel or compressed air storage, large batteries

Power saving inventions

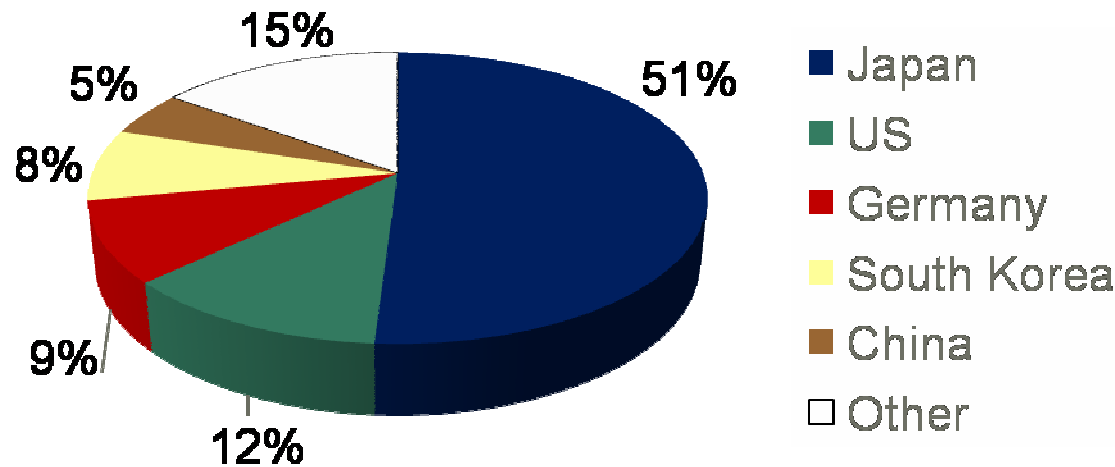


Energy related patents in Europe

- 48% of energy-related patent applications relate to emerging technologies
- Largest rise in number of patent applications between 1998 and 2007:
 - wind power 31%
 - fuel cells 22%
 - solar thermal 11%
 - solar photovoltaic technologies 9%

Energy related patents worldwide

**% of total patent filings
2001 - 2005**



Source: WIPO

Also: PCT statistics 1998-2007 show increase in filings from 908 to 3910 applications ($\approx 431\%$)

Source: Peterson et. al., IP & Technology, July 2008

Can the IP system help? Citation Searching

Most Intellectual Property Offices examine patent applications

→ a technically skilled examiner forms a view on your
(your competitor's) patent applications

→ a rich source of information; tap into it

Which patents have been cited against your patent application?

Which patent application has your IP been cited against?

The Benefits of Citation Searching

- Identify competitors
- Identification of potentially dangerous activities of your competitors
- Identification of your inventions that are dangerous to your competitors
- Identification of markets important to your competitors
- Identify “prior art” that may come in handy in a dispute and could be useful for Due Diligence exercises

All this as a ‘by-product’ of your normal patent application process
for little extra effort

Is it worth it?

May 2009:

Renewable Energy Holdings plc agreed to sell its wave energy IP to Carnegie Corporation Limited for around £30 million

It may well be worth it!

- MIT Filed initial patent application in Dec. '01 (later WO 03/256646)
- \$100m orders by Nov. '06



In a nutshell....

“If you have a well-drafted patent application, you can get a seat at the table with the big corporations.”

Eric Lane,
founder of the greenpatentblog

Summary

- A fast moving field
- IP can provide insight/overview
- IP is fundamental to creating revenue/securing funding

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Thomas Prock

Marks & Clerk

90 Long Acre

London

WC2E 9RA

T +44 (0)20 7420 0231

E tprock@marks-clerk.com